

In the Specification:

Insert the following paragraph on page 1 before the “Field of Invention”:

--This is a continuation application which claims priority from U.S. Application Serial No.10/070,402, filed on March 1, 2002, which claims priority from and is a 371 of International Application Serial No. PCT/US00/27488, filed on October 5, 2000, which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/157,929, filed October 6, 1999.--

Delete the second full paragraph (lines 10-16) on page 5 and insert the following:

10        The blade housing 32 is an annular member for receiving, and rotatably supporting, the blade 12. The blade housing is split to enable its resilient expansion for removing and replacing the blade 12. The illustrated blade housing is seated against the head member seating region 36 and positions the blade 12 so that the ring gear 12b [[12a]] is accurately positioned for being driven from the pinion gear 22b. The blade 15 housing defines a semicircular cut-out area 46 that receives the pinion gear 22b when the pinion gear and ring gear 12b mesh.

Delete the fourth full paragraph (lines 22-31) on page 5 and extending to the top of page 6 (lines 1-2) and insert the following:

25        Referring to Figures 7-10, the body mounting structure 43 defines first and second axially extending (i.e. parallel to the axis 14) projections 43a disposed on one side of the split, and third and fourth axially extending projections 43b disposed on the other side of the split. Each projection extends axially from the blade supporting section to a distal projection end. Each projection defines a radially outwardly facing, circumferentially extending bearing face 44 confronting the head member 30, and a circumferentially extending radially outwardly opening groove 45 extending between the respective bearing face 44 and the radially outer face 32b. The projection bearing 30 faces 44 extend parallel to the radially outer face 32b. The radially outer face 32b defines a housing body bearing face portion 46a [[46]] (Figure 7) extending

1 circumferentially along the body mounting structure 43 and confronting the head member. The bearing face 46a is separated from the bearing faces 44 by the groove 45.

Delete the second full paragraph (lines 10-18) on page 6 and insert the following:

10 A radially inner bearing face 47 (Figure 8) extends circumferentially along the radially inner side of the body mounting structure 43 and confronts the clamp assembly 34. The inner bearing face 47 is located axially between the blade supporting section 32a and the distal projection ends. The inner bearing face is axially narrow compared to the axial extent of either the housing body or the projection bearing faces. The inner 15 bearing face 47 is constructed and arranged so that clamping force applied to the inner bearing face is transmitted radially and axially through the blade housing to the housing body bearing face 46a [[46]] and the projection bearing faces 44 for security clamping the blade housing in place.

Delete the third full paragraph (lines 19-28) on page 6 and insert the following:

The clamp assembly 34 firmly maintains the blade housing seated against the blade support assembly seating region 36 to rigidly position the blade 12 while covering the pinion gear, which might otherwise be exposed to meat, fat, bone chips, etc. that could adversely effect the gearing. The clamp assembly 34 comprises a clamp body 50, and clamping screws 52. (See Figures 1-5, 11 and 12). The clamp body 50 defines a semicircular recess 54 confronting the head member for receiving the pinion gear 22b, 20 bearing ridges 56 that engage the blade housing 32 along the inner bearing face 47 on respective opposite sides of the housing body split, and clamping screw receiving bosses 58 that project into the socket 38 between the projections 43a and 43b, 25 respectively.

Delete the second full paragraph (lines 18-27) on page 7 and insert the following:

In the illustrated knife the clamp assembly 34 carries a blade steeling mechanism 60 that is manually operated periodically to straighten the blade section edge 12a for maintaining its sharpness. The knife is operated to rotate the blade 12 about its axis and the knife operator moves the steel into engagement with the blade to straighten the blade as it rotates. Referring to Figures 2-5, the steeling mechanism 60 comprises a supporting body 62, a steel assembly 64 supported by the body 62 for movement into and away from engagement with the blade 12, a manually operated actuator 66 for shifting the steel assembly from a retracted position into engagement with the blade 12, and a return spring 68 for returning the steel assembly to its retracted position. [[.]]

Delete the fourth full paragraph (lines 25-31) on page 8 and insert the following:

The illustrated return spring 68 is a helical coil spring that is captured in the bore 74. The bore 74 is stepped to define an internal shoulder that confronts the plunger shoulder. The spring 68 surrounds the reduced diameter portion of the plunger and is disposed, in a lightly compressed condition, between the confronting shoulders so that the plunger is biased to retract the steel element from the blade. When the plunger moves to shift the steel element toward the blade, the spring [[82]] 68 is further compressed.